

JUDITH

CHAPTER 1

It was *the* twelfth year of the reign of Seleukos,¹ who ruled over *the* Assyrians in the great city of Nineveh.² In those days Arshak³ ruled over the Medes in Ekbatana.⁴ **2** And around this city, he built walls of hewn stones, each 3 cubits in width and 6 cubits in length. And he made the walls 70 cubits in height and 50 cubits in width. **3** And at its gates he raised its towers 100 cubits *high* and 60 cubits in width at the base. **4** And he built its gates to a height of 70 cubits, with an opening 40 cubits in width for a passage for his powerful forces and *for the* arrangement of his infantry.

5 Then King Seleukos started a war against King Arshak in the great plain, which⁵ is a plain on the borders of Rhages. **6** And there, *many nations* joined him for war.⁶ *These included* all those who were dwelling in the mountain-region, and all those who were dwelling along the Euphrates,⁷ and the Tigris,⁸ and the Hydaspes,⁹ and, on *the* plain, King Arioch of the Elamites. So many nations joined to fight against¹⁰ the battle-lines of *the* sons of *the* Chaldeans.¹¹

7 Then King Seleukos of *the* Assyrians sent *messengers* to all who were dwelling in Persia, and to all who were dwelling in *the* west: to those who were dwelling in Kilikia and Damasek, and Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon, and to all who were dwelling along the seacoast, **8** and to the nations of Carmel, and Gilead, and Upper Galilee, and the great plain of Jezreel, **9** and to all who were in Samaria and its cities, and beyond the Jordan as far as Jerusalem, and Beth-Anya, and Haluzah, and Kadesh, and the River¹² of Egypt, and Tahpanhes, and Raamses, and all *the* land of Goshen, **10** even beyond Zoan¹³ and Memphis, and to all those who were dwelling in Egypt as far as the borders of Cush.¹⁴

11 But those who were dwelling in all the earth debased the summons of King Seleukos of *the* Assyrians, and refused to go with him to the war, because they did not fear him; instead, *they* regarded him as a lone man *opposed to them*. So they sent back his messengers empty-handed and with dishonor in their faces. **12** Then Seleukos fell into a violent rage against all of this land, and swore by his throne and his kingdom that he would take revenge within all the borders of Kilikia and Damasek and Aram, and, that he would do away with, by his long-sword, all of those who were dwelling in *the* land of Moab, and the sons of Ammon, and all Judah,¹⁵ and all of those in Egypt, as far as the borders of the two seas.

13 And in the seventeenth year, he led his forces against King Arshak and defeated him in the war, and routed the whole force of Arshak—all his cavalry and all his chariots. **14** And he took possession of his cities and pressed on to Ekbatana, and captured its towers, and plundered its streets, and turned its ornamentation into shame.¹⁶

15 Then he overtook Arshak in the mountains of Rhages and ran him through with his hunting-spears, thereby exterminating him once *and for* all. **16** Then he returned to Nineveh with them,¹⁷ *he along with* his entire motley multitude of men, an enormous horde of warriors. And there, he and his force rested and feasted for 120 days.¹⁸

CHAPTER 2

And in the eighteenth¹⁹ year, on *the* twenty-second²⁰ day of the first month, there was a discussion in *the* house of King Seleukos of *the* Assyrians, about carrying out his revenge on all the earth, as he had *previously* uttered. **2** And he summoned all his servants and all his great *men*, and set before them his secret council; and, with his own mouth, he fully recounted all the evil of the earth. **3** And they

¹ [1:1] Midrash / all others "Nebuchadnezzar" which is obviously an anachronism (and also in all other occurrences) [Vul omits altogether]

² [1:1] Vul / most others add

³ [1:1] Original name, from possible Greek emendation "Arsaces" / all Greek "Arphaxad" (likely corruption of "Arsacid") / Vul omits altogether [this change is also made in other occurrences]

⁴ [1:1] Vul omits "It was the...Nineveh." And instead reads here, "Now Arphaxad king of the Medes has subjugated many nations in his empire, and he built a very strong city which he called Ekbatana"

⁵ [1:6] LXX(A,B) / others "great plain, this plain"

⁶ [1:6] LXX(S), Syr adds

⁷ [1:6] Greek / from Persian "Ufratu" / Hebrew "Furat"

⁸ [1:6] Greek / Hebrew "Hidekkel"

⁹ [1:6] Vul "Iadanan" / Syr "Ulai"

¹⁰ [1:6] Syr adds

¹¹ [1:6] Syr / LXX "Cheleoud" / OL "Chelleoth" / Vul omits "So many...Chaldeans."

¹² [1:9] LXX(S) "torrents" / OL (rivers)

¹³ [1:10] Greek "Tanis" (which is the translation of Hebrew "Zoan" in the LXX)

¹⁴ [1:10] Greek "Ethiopia" (which is the translation of Hebrew "Cush" in the LXX)

¹⁵ [1:12] LXX(B) "Edom"

¹⁶ [1:14] OL "and he made it a reproach" / Syr "and all their beauty they made into a reproach"

¹⁷ [1:16] LXX(B) / 19, 108, OL, Syr omit "with them" / LXX(A), others reads "to Nineveh with them"

¹⁸ [1:13-16] Vul omits "In the seventeenth year...days." / LXX(B) omits "an enormous horde...feasted"

¹⁹ [2:1] LXX / 58, Syr "the twenty-eighth" / Vul "thirteenth"

²⁰ [2:1] LXX, Vul / Syr "the twelfth"

decided to exterminate all flesh which had refused to obey the account *spoken by* his *own* mouth.

4 And when he had completed his council, King Seleukos of *the* Assyrians, summoned Holofernes, the chief-general of his force, second only to himself, and said to him, **5** "This is what the great king, the lord of all the earth, says: Behold, go forth from my presence and take with you men who are confident in their strength: 120,000 infantry and a multitude of 12,000 cavalry. **6** And go out against all the earth *to the* west, because they disobeyed the word *spoken by my own* mouth. **7** And give them this message: have earth and water ready, for I am going against them in my fury. And I will cover the whole face of the earth with the feet of my force, and I will hand them over to be plundered by them. **8** And their wounded shall fill their ravines and every wadi, and *the* river which is flooding-over shall be choked with their corpses. **9** And I will lead them away as captives to the ends of all the earth."²¹

10 "Now you shall go before me to seize all their territory for me. And *if* they surrender to you, guard them for me until the day of their punishment. **11** But as for those who resist, show them no mercy, *but* hand them over to murder and plunder throughout all your²² land. **12** For as I live, and by the might of my kingdom, what I have uttered I will accomplish by my own hand. **13** But you—do not transgress a single one of your lord's words, instead carry them out exactly as I have ordered you, and do it without delay."

14 So Holofernes left the presence of his lord, and summoned all the powerful *men*, and the generals and superintendents²³ of the Assyrian force.²⁴ **15** And as directed by his lord, he mustered 120,000 picked men into regular battle formation, along with 12,000 archers on horseback, **16** and he organized them as a great multitude is organized for a war. **17** And he took along a vast multitude of camels and donkeys and mules for their baggage; and innumerable sheep and oxen and goats for their food supply; **18** also ample rations for each man, and a vast amount of gold and silver from the royal house.

19 Then he set out with his whole force on their journey in advance of King Seleukos, and to cover the whole face of the earth *to the* west with their chariots and cavalry and picked infantry. **20** And along with them went a multitude which could not be counted—a huge, mixed *force*, like locusts, and like the sand of the earth.

21 And after a three-day march from Nineveh, they reached *the* face of the Bectileth Plain. And from Bectileth, they encamped near the mountains to the north of Upper Kilikia. **22** And from there *Holofernes* advanced into the mountain-region with his whole force: the infantry, and the cavalry, and the chariots. **23** And he ravaged Put and Lud, and plundered all the sons of Thiras, and the sons of Rassis,²⁵ and the sons of Ishmael on the front of the desert toward *the south of the country* of the Haluzahites.²⁶

24 Then, he followed the Euphrates,²⁷ and passed through Aram-naharaim,²⁸ and overthrew every lofty city along the Abron²⁹ Wadi, until he reached the sea. **25** And he seized the territories of Kilikia, and cut-down everyone who opposed him. Then he proceeded to the southern territories of Japheth, whose front is toward Arabia. **26** And he surrounded all the sons of Midian, and set fire to their tents and plundered their sheepfolds. **27** And going down into the Damasek Plain during *the* days of *the* wheat harvest, he set fire to all their fields, and eliminated their flocks and herds, and despoiled their cities, and winnowed their plains, and struck all their youths with *the* mouth of *the* long-sword.

28 So fear and trembling of him fell upon all the inhabitants of the seacoast, upon those in Sidon and in Tsor, and those who were dwelling in Sur³⁰ and Okina,³¹ and all those who were dwelling in Jabneh. And those who were dwelling in Ashdod and Ashkelon and Gaza³² feared him greatly.

CHAPTER 3

So they sent messengers to him to sue for peace in these words, saying, **2** "We, the boys of Great King Seleukos, lie prostrate before you. Do with us whatever you please.³³ **3** See, our buildings and all our region,³⁴ and all our wheat plains, and our flocks and herds, and all our rings of tents are at your disposal; do with them as you please. **4** See, our cities and those who are dwelling in them are also your slaves; come and deal with them as you see fit."

5 And the men³⁵ came to Holofernes and brought a message to him concerning all this. **6** So he went down with his force to the seacoast, and

²¹ [2:7-9] Vul omits "Tell them to have earth...all the earth."

²² [2:11] 19,44,58,71,74,106,108,236, Syr, OL omits "your" (therefore reading "the")

²³ [2:14] LXX(S) "satraps"

²⁴ literally "the force of Asshur" (also in verse 5:1, 6:1, 13:15, 14:3, 14:19)

²⁵ [4:23] LXX / Vul "the sons of Tharsis" / OL "the sons of Thiras and the sons of Rassis"

²⁶ [2:23] LXX(SA) / LXX(B), 58, Syr, 19, 108 "Chaldeans"

²⁷ [2:24] Greek / from Persian "Ufratu" / Hebrew "Furat"

²⁸ [2:24] Hebrew equivalent / Greek "Mesopotamia"

²⁹ [2:24] LXX(AB) / LXX(S) "Hebron" / Vul "Mambre" / Syr "Jabbok" / OL "Beccon"

³⁰ [2:28] LXX(A) / LXX(S) "Tour" / LXX(B) "Assyria" (Asshur) / 19, 108 "Soud" / Eth "Seir"

³¹ [2:28] LXX(S) "Annan"

³² [2:28] LXX(S), OL, Syr add

³³ [3:2] LXX(S) omits "Do with us whatever you please."

³⁴ [3:3] LXX(B,S) omit "and all our region" by scribal error

³⁵ [3:5] LXX / OL, Syr "envoys"

stationed garrisons in the cities of the highland, from where he took picked men as auxiliaries. **7** And these *people in the cities* and all *the inhabitants* in the countryside welcomed him with garlands and dances and tympanis. **8** Nevertheless, he demolished all their shrines¹ and cut down their *sacred groves*; for he had been commissioned to destroy all the gods of the earth, so that all of the nations might render service to Seleukos alone, and that every language and tribe might invoke him as a god. **9** And *then, Holofernes* reached Jezreel, in the neighborhood of Dothan, the approach to the great ridge of Judah; **10** and he encamped between Geba and Skythopolis, and remained there for a whole month in order to refurbish all the equipment of his force.²

CHAPTER 4

But the sons of Israel who were dwelling in Judah heard of everything which Holofernes, the chief-general of King Seleukos of *the Assyrians*, had done to the nations, and how he had despoiled and eliminated all their temples.³ **2** So they were extremely fearful at his approach; and they were greatly alarmed for Jerusalem and for the inner-sanctum of *the Lord* their God. **3** Because they had *only* lately returned from their exile, and only recently had all the people of Judah been gathered together; and the vessels, and the sacrificial-altar, and the house had been purified from its profanation. **4** So they sent *word* within *the borders* of Samaria, and Kona,⁴ and Beth-horon, and Belmain,⁵ and Jericho, and within Choba and Aesora, and the gorge of Salem. **5** And they immediately posted guards on all the summits of the mountains of the highlands, and enwalled the villages on them. And because their plains had recently been harvested, they stored up provisions in preparation for a war.

6 And the great priest Joiakim,⁶ who was in Jerusalem in those days, wrote to those who were dwelling in Bethulia and⁷ Betomesthaim, which is on the way to Jezreel, facing the plain near Dothan. **7** He said, that they should keep firm hold of the passes of the mountain-region, because these offered access into Judah. And since the approach was narrow, wide enough for only two men at a time to pass through, it would be easy to ward off the advancing *forces*. **8** So the sons of Israel carried out the orders given to them by the great priest Joiakim and the body-of-seniors of all *the populace* of Israel in session⁸ at Jerusalem.

9 And all *the men* of Israel cried out to God with great fervor, and they humbled their souls with much fasting.⁹ **10** They, along with their women, and their infants, and their livestock,¹⁰ and every resident alien, and hired laborers, and purchased slaves—they all girded their loins with sackcloth. **11** And all *the men* and women of Israel, and the little-ones dwelling in Jerusalem prostrated themselves in front of the inner-sanctum, with ashes strewn on their heads, and displaying their sackcloth before *the Lord*. **12** And they even draped the sacrificial-altar with sackcloth. And with one accord, they cried out fervently to the God of Israel, not to allow their infants to be seized, or their women to be taken as booty, or their inherited cities to be eliminated, or the holy-places to suffer profanation and desecration for the nations to gloat over.

13 And *the Lord* heard their voice and had regard for their distress. For the people fasted many days throughout Judah, and before the holy-places of *the Lord* Almighty in Jerusalem.¹¹ **14** And the great priest Joiakim, along with all *the priests* who stood before *the Lord* and performed-public-service to *the Lord*, had their loins girded with sackcloth as they offered the daily holocaust, and the prayers, and the freewill-offerings of the people. **15** And with ashes on their turbans, they cried out to *the Lord* with all their power to look-after *the whole house* of Israel with goodness.

CHAPTER 5

And a message was brought back to Holofernes, chief-general of *the Assyrian force*, that the sons of Israel had prepared for a war, and had blocked the passes in the mountain-region, and enwalled every high mountain peak, and set up impediments in the plains. **2** And he was violently angered with fury, and called together all the chiefs of Moab and the generals of Ammon and all the satraps of the seacoast,¹² **3** and he said to them, “Bring back a message to me, sons of

¹ [3:8] Syr / LXX “demolished everything within their borders”

² [3:9–10] Vul “And when he had passed through all Syria Sobal, and all Apamea, and all Aram-naharaim, he came to the Edomites into the land of Geba, and he took possession of their cities, and stayed there for 30 days, in which days he commanded all the troops of his army to be united.”

³ [4:1] most LXX / LXX(A), Eth “borders/territories”

⁴ [4:4] most LXX / LXX(A), Syr, OL(S) “villages” (Gk “komas”)

⁵ [4:4] most LXX / LXX(S) “Abelmaim” / Syr “Abel-meholah”

⁶ [4:6] 48, Vul “Eliakim”

⁷ [4:6] Vul omits “Bethulia and” / Midrash has “Jerusalem” instead of “Bethulia” in all occurrences

⁸ literally “seated”

⁹ [4:9] LXX(Sbtkr), OL(S), Syr / LXX(BAN) “their souls with great fervor”

¹⁰ [4:10] Syr, Vul omit “and their livestock”

¹¹ [4:13] LXX(S) “Judah, and those in Jerusalem fell down before the holy-places of the Lord Almighty” // Vul replaces “The Lord heard...Jerusalem” with “Then *Joiakim* the chief-priest of the Lord went about all of Israel and spoke to them, saying, “Know that, if you continue with perseverance in the fastings and prayers in the sight of the Lord, that the Lord will hear your prayers. Remember Moses, the servant of the Lord, who overcame Amalek, who trusted in his own strength, and in his power, and in his army, and in his shields, and in his chariots, and in his horsemen; not by fighting with the sword but by praying with holy prayers. So shall all the enemies of Israel be, if you persevere in this work that you have begun.”

¹² [5:2] LXX(S), OL(M) omit “and all the satraps of the seacoast” by scribal error

Canaan, *informing me about* what sort of people this is who lives in the mountain-region, and what cities they inhabit, and the number¹³ of their force, and in what their might and strength consists, and who has stood-up over them as king, leading their army.¹⁴ **4** And *find out* why they alone, of all who dwell in *the west*, have refused to come out in order to meet me.”

5 Then Achior,¹⁵ the leader of all *the sons* of Ammon, said to him, “My lord, please listen to a report from the mouth of your slave, and I will give you a message of the truth about this people who inhabits the mountain-region near you. And no falsehood shall escape your slave’s mouth.

6 “This people is descended from *the Chaldeans*. **7** And at one time they lived in Aram-naharaim,¹⁶ because they did not wish to follow the gods of their fathers who were *worshipped*¹⁷ in *the land* of Chaldea. **8** And since they had abandoned the ways of their forefathers, and bowed-down to the God of the heaven, a god which they had come to know, *their fathers* drove them out from the presence of their gods. So they fled to Aram-naharaim, and lived there for many days. **9** Then their God commanded them to leave their sojourning and proceed to *the land* of Canaan. And there they settled, and grew very prosperous in gold and silver, and exceedingly many livestock. **10** Then they went down to Egypt (for a famine had spread over the land of Canaan), and *they* sojourned there as long as they found sustenance.¹⁸ And there they grew into such a great multitude, and their race could not be counted. **11** Then the king of Egypt rose up against them, and he dealt shrewdly them, and forced them to make bricks, and made slaves of them. **12** And they cried out to their God, and he struck all the land of Egypt with incurable plagues.¹⁹ So the Egyptians drove them from *before their faces*. **13** Then *the God of the heavens* dried up the Sea of Reeds before them in *their flight*, so that *the waters were made to stand firm* as a wall on either side, and they walked through the bottom of the sea and passed it dry on foot. And when an innumerable army of the Egyptians pursued after them in that place, they were so overwhelmed with the waters, that there was not one left to tell what had happened to their posterity. **14** And after they came out of the Sea of Reeds, he led them along the route to²⁰ Sinai and Kadesh-barnea, in which man could never dwell, nor son of man rest within. There bitter fountains were made sweet for them to drink, and for forty years they received food from the heavens.²¹ And they drove out all the people of the desert, **15** and they took up residence in *the land* of the Amorites, and by their strength exterminated all the inhabitants of Heshbon. And crossing over the Jordan, they took possession of all the mountain-region. **16** And they drove out before them the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Jebusites, the Shechemites, and all the Gergashites; and they dwelled in *these mountains* for many days.

17 “Wherever they went in without bow and arrow, and without shield and sword, their God fought for them and overcame. And as long as *the sons of Israel* did not sin against their God, they had good-things, because a god who hates unrighteousness is with them. **18** But when they deviated from the way which he had prescribed for them, they were exterminated in many wars and were taken as captives to a strange land.²² And the inner-sanctum of their God was brought to the ground, and their cities were occupied by their opponents. **19** And now that they have returned to their God, they have come back from the dispersion in which they were dispersed, and have repossessed Jerusalem, where their holy-place is, and have settled in the mountain-region which was desolate.

20 “And now, *my master, my lord*, if this people is at fault and they are sinning against their God, and if we observe²³ their impediment, then we shall be able to go up and make war on them. **21** But if their nation is not *plunged into* lawlessness, then let my lord pass them by; otherwise their Lord and their God will shelter them, and we shall become a laughingstock of all the earth.”

22 And when Achior had finishing uttering these accounts, all the people standing around the tent began to murmur; and Holofernes’ great *men* and all the inhabitants of the seacoast and of Moab insisted that he should be cut to pieces.

23 For they said, “We do not fear *the sons* of Israel; for they are a people without power, nor do they have the might to endure a strong pitched-battle. **24** For this reason, Master Holofernes, that Achior may know that he is deceiving us, let us go up into the mountains, and your entire army will ingest them. *Then every*

¹³ literally “multitude”

¹⁴ [5:3] LXX(S), Syr omit “leading their army”

¹⁵ [5:5] Syr “Ahihud” (in Num 34:27, LXX translates “Ahihud” to “Achior”)

¹⁶ [5:7] Hebrew equivalent / Gk “Mesopotamia” (also below)

¹⁷ [5:7] Syr, Vul add

¹⁸ [5:10] 248, Compl. Ald. “they were perverted”

¹⁹ literally “with plagues which could not be healed”

²⁰ [5:14] many LXX / LXX(cejklvw), OL, Syr “them to Mount”

²¹ [5:13–14] Vul adds all the underlined portion found from “Then the God of Heavens dried up...heavens.”

²² [5:17–18] Vul “Wherever they went in...overcame. And there was no one who triumphed over this people, except when they departed from worshipping the Lord their God. But as often as they worshipped any other God besides their own, they were given to spoil and to the sword, and to reproach. And as often as they changed their minds for having revolted from worshipping their God, the God of Heaven gave them power to resist.”

²³ Literally “look-over”

nation may know that Seleukos is god of the earth, and there is no other besides him.”²¹

CHAPTER 6

And when the uproar of the men surrounding the congress had subsided, Holofernes, the chief-general of the Assyrian force, said to Achior and to all the sons of Ammon,² in the presence of all the foreign populace, **2** “And who are you, Achior, and you, the mercenaries of Ammon,³ to prophesy among us as you have done today, and tell us not to wage-war against the race of Israel because their God will defend them? And what god is there except Seleukos? He will send his might and exterminate them from the face of the earth. And their god will not save them; **3** instead, we, the king’s slaves, will strike them down as one human, and they will be unable to resist the might of our cavalry. **4** For we will overwhelm them with it;⁴ and their mountains will be made-intoxicated with their blood, and their plains will be filled with their corpses. Not even their footprints will survive our attack; instead, they will perish in a destruction, says King Seleukos, the lord of all the earth. For he has spoken; and none of the words of his accounts⁵ shall be in vain.

5 “But as for you, Achior, you mercenary of Ammon, for uttering these accounts in a moment⁶ of unrighteousness, you shall not see my face again from this day, until I have taken revenge on this race of men who came out of Egypt. **6** And then, at my⁷ return, the iron weapons of my army and the spear⁸ of my servants will pierce your sides, and you shall fall among their wounded. **7** Now⁹ my slaves are going to take you back into the mountain-region, and leave you in one of the cities along the passes. **8** And you shall not perish until you are exterminated together with them. **9** And if you really hope in your heart that they will not be taken, then do not look downcast! I have spoken,¹⁰ and none of my words shall fail in any respect.”

10 Then Holofernes ordered his slaves, who waited on him in his tent, to seize Achior and conduct him to Bethulia, and give him into the hands of the sons of Israel. **11** So the slaves took him into custody, and brought him out of the camp into the plain. And from the plain they went up into the mountain-region, and they reached the springs below Bethulia. **12** And when the men of that city saw them on the peak of the mountain,¹¹ they seized their weapons and ran out of the city to the peak of the mountain; and all the men who were slingers blocked the slaves’ ascent by throwing stones at them. **13** So having taken shelter below the mountain, they bound Achior to a tree by his hands and feet¹² and left him lying at the base of the mountain, and they returned to their lord.

14 Now the sons of Israel came down from their city and found him; they untied¹³ him and brought him into Bethulia. And they placed him before the chiefs of their city, **15** who in those days were Uzziah the son of Michah¹⁴ of the tribe of Simeon, and Chabri the son of Othoniel, and Carmi¹⁵ son of Melchiel.¹⁶ **16** Then they convened all the elders of the city; and all their youths, as well as the women and their children,¹⁷ gathered in haste at the place of assembly. And they set Achior in the center of all their people, and Uzziah questioned him about what had happened. **17** And he answered by bringing them a message regarding the words which had been spoken at the congress of Holofernes, and of all the words which he¹⁸ had uttered in the presence of the chiefs of the sons of Asshur, and of everything which Holofernes had boasted that he would do against the house of Israel.

18 And at this, the people fell down, bowing-down before God; and they cried out, saying, **19** “O Lord God of the heaven and earth,¹⁹ behold their arrogance! And have mercy on the lowliness of our race, and look with favor this day upon the faces of those who have been made holy to you.²⁰ Show that you do not abandon those who trust in you, but that you humble those who trust in themselves and glory in their own strength.”²¹

20 Then they reassured Achior, and praised him highly, saying, “As it shall please God to do for us, so it shall be also for you.”²² **21** And Uzziah brought him from the assembly to his own house, and made a drinking party for the elders. And that entire night they called upon the God of Israel for help.

CHAPTER 7

Now the next day, Holofernes transmitted a message to all of his army, and all of his people who had supported him as his auxiliary, to break camp in order to move against Bethulia, and to seize the passes of the mountain-region, and make a war on the sons of Israel. **2** So that same day, every powerful man marched into action. And their force of men who were warriors numbered 170,000²³ infantry and 20,000²⁴ cavalry, not counting the baggage-train and²⁵ the men on foot who were handling it—a very great multitude. **3** And they encamped in the gorge near Bethulia, beside the spring, and they spread out in breadth toward Dothan as far as Belbaim,²⁶ and in length from Bethulia to Cyamon,²⁷ which faces Jezreel.

4 But when the sons of Israel saw the vastness of their multitude, they were greatly agitated, and said to one another, “Soon they will lick up the face of the whole land. Neither the mountains of the highland, nor the ravines, nor the hills are able to support their mass.”²⁸ **5** So they all seized their implements of war, and when they had kindled fires on their towers of the walls,²⁹ they kept watch throughout the entire night.

6 Now on the second day,³⁰ Holofernes led out all of his cavalry in full view of the sons of Israel who were in Bethulia. **7** And he looked-over the ascents to their city, and patrolled the springs of their water; and he seized them beforehand, and stationed camps of men who were warriors, and then he returned to his people.³¹

8 Then all the chiefs of the sons of Esau, and all the leaders of the people of Moab, together with the generals of the seacoast came to Holofernes, saying, **9** “My master, listen to what we have to say, so that your force may suffer no losses. **10** For this people, the sons of Israel, do not rely on their spears, but instead on the heights of the mountains where they dwell, for it is not easy to reach the peaks of their mountains. **11** And now, my master, do not war against them in regular formation,³² and not a single man of your people will fall. **12** Remain in your camp. Keep all of the men in your force with you, and have some of your boys take possession of the spring of water which emerges from the base of the mountain, **13** since this is where all the inhabitants of Bethulia get their water. So thirst will do away with them, and they will surrender their city. And meanwhile, we and our people will go up to the peaks of the nearby mountains, and encamp there as an advanced-guard so that not a single man will be able to leave the city. **14** And they and their women and their children will waste away with the famine; and before the long-sword reaches them, they will be strewn about in the streets of their habitations. **15** So you will pay them back with wickedness for their sedition and their refusal to meet you in peace.”

16 And these accounts pleased Holofernes and all his servants, and he uttered orders to do as they had said. **17** So a camp of the sons of Ammon³³ moved away from there, together with 5,000 of the sons of Asshur. And they encamped in the gorge, and seized the water supply and the springs of the sons of Israel.³⁴ **18** And the sons of Esau and the sons of Ammon, went up, and they encamped in the mountain-region opposite Dothan. Then they sent off some of their men to the south and to the east opposite Akrah, which is near Chusi beside the Wadi Mochmur.³⁵ And the rest of the army of the Assyrians was encamped in the plain, and they covered the entire face of the land. And their tents and supply-trains pitched-camp in a great crowd, and they formed a vast multitude.

19 And since the sons of Israel were surrounded by all of their enemies, and because there was no way to escape out from among them, their spirits were discouraged; and they cried out to the Lord their god. **20** And the whole Assyrian camp,³⁶ their infantry, and chariots, and cavalry, kept them surrounded like this for 34 days,³⁷ until all the reservoirs of the water failed every inhabitant of

¹ [5:24] Vul “Therefore...deceiving us, let us go up into the mountains; and when their mighty men have been taken prisoners, then let him be stabbed with the sword, along with them: that every nation...besides him.” [Vul has “Nebuchadnezzar” for “Seleucus”]

² [6:1] LXX(Adgmpsu) “Moab” / one LXX places “and to all the sons of Moab” after “foreign populace”

³ [6:2] LXX(bkfr), OL, Syr / most LXX “Ephraim” / Vul omits altogether

⁴ [6:4] others omit “with it”

⁵ [6:4] LXX(S), 19, 108 “mouth”

⁶ literally “day”

⁷ [6:6] LXX(B) “their”

⁸ [6:6] OL, Vul, Syr / LXX “people”

⁹ literally “And”

¹⁰ literally “uttered”

¹¹ [6:12] 58, OL, Syr / most add

¹² [6:13] Vul adds

¹³ literally “released”

¹⁴ [6:15] LXX(A) “Cheima”

¹⁵ [6:15] LXX(A) “Calmeis”

¹⁶ [6:15] LXX(S-corrector) “Sellem”

¹⁷ [6:16] LXX(fk), Syr, OL add

¹⁸ [6:17] LXX(AN), Eth “they”

¹⁹ [6:19] Vul adds

²⁰ [6:19] Syr “upon your holy-place”

²¹ [6:19] Vul “Regard our lowliness and look with favor on your holy ones. Show that you...own strength.”

²² [7:20] OL adds / Vul omits “and praised him highly” and then instead adds “saying, “The God of our fathers, whose power you have set forth, will make this return to you, that you shall see their destruction. And when the Lord our God gives this liberty to his servants, let God be with you also in the midst of us: that as it shall please you, so you with all yours may converse with us.”

²³ [7:2] LXX(S) “8,000” / Syr “172,000” / Vul, OL(C), LXX(S*) “120,000”

²⁴ [7:2] Syr, OL, Vul “22,000”

²⁵ [7:2] LXX(S) “baggage of”

²⁶ [7:3] LXX(BA) / LXX(N), Eth, Vul “Belmain” (or similar) / LXX(S) “Abelmaim”

²⁷ [7:3] Syr “Kadmun” / OL “Chelmona”

²⁸ [7:4] LXX / Vul “numbers, they prostrated themselves upon the ground, put ashes upon their heads, and prayed with one accord that the God of Israel would show mercy to his people.”

²⁹ [7:5] 58, Syr, OL adds

³⁰ [7:6] LXX / Vul omits “On the second day”

³¹ [7:6–7] LXX / Vul, Midrash(similar) “Holofernes, in going round about, found that the fountain which supplied them with water ran through an aqueduct outside the city on the south side. And he commanded their aqueduct to be cut off. Nevertheless, there were springs not far from the walls, out of which they were seen secretly to draw water, to refresh themselves a little rather than to drink their fill.”

³² literally “in a war of a regular formation” or “in a war of a pitched-battle”

³³ [7:17] 19, 108, OL(S), Syr “Moab”

³⁴ [7:17] Vul “and he placed all around about a hundred men at every spring.”

³⁵ [7:18] LXX(A) omits “beside the Wadi Mochmur” / Vul omits all three of these place names

³⁶ literally “camp of Asshur” (also in verse 15:6)

³⁷ [7:20] LXX / 19, 108 “for 14 days and 1 month” / OL, Syr “for 4 days and 2 months” / Vul “for 20 days”

Bethulia. **21** And their cisterns ran dry, so that on no day did they have enough water to drink, because it was rationed. **22** And their infants fainted away, and the women and the youths were consumed with the thirst and were collapsing in the city plazas and in the thoroughfares; they no longer had any strength *left in them*.¹

23 Then all the people, *including* the youths, and the women, and the little-ones, gathered around Uzziah and the chiefs of the city. And they cried out with a loud voice, and said before all the elders, **24** “Let God judge between you and us, because you have done a great unrighteous-deed to us by not speaking² *terms* of peace with *the* sons of Asshur. **25** And now, there is no help for us! Instead, God has sold us into their hands, to be strewn before them in thirst and utter perdition. **26** And now, summon them and surrender the whole city as spoil to the people of Holofernes and to his entire force. **27** For it would be better for us to become their prey than to die by thirst.³ For even if we become *their* slaves, at least our souls will be spared, and we will not have to see the death of our infants before our eyes, and our women and our children losing their souls. **28** We call to testify against you: the heaven and the earth, and our God, *the* Lord of our *forefathers*, who is punishing us for our sins and the sinful-actions of our *forefathers*; do⁴ the things that we have proposed, this very day!”

29 Then with one accord, a great weeping arose throughout the assembly, and they cried out to *the* Lord God with a loud voice, saying, “We have sinned with our fathers, we have done unjustly, we have committed iniquity. Have mercy upon us, because you are good, or punish our iniquities by chastising us yourself; and do not deliver those who trust in you to a people who do not know you, that they might not say among the nations, ‘Where is their God?’” And wearied with these cries, and tired with these weepings, they held their peace.⁵

30 And Uzziah said to them, “Courage, *my* brothers! Let us hold out five days more for *the* Lord our God to turn his mercy toward us again, for he will not utterly forsake us. **31** But if those *days* pass by, and no help comes for us, I will act according to your words.”

32 Then he dismissed the people to their various camps, and they returned to the walls and the towers of their city. And he sent off the women and the children to their homes. And throughout the city they were in great misery.⁶

CHAPTER 8

And in those days, Judith heard about these things.⁷ She was *the* daughter of Merari, son of Buz,⁸ son of Joseph, son of Uzziel, son of Elkiah, son of Hananiah, son of Gideon, son of Rephaim, son of Ahitub,⁹ son of Elijah, son of Hilkiah,¹⁰ son of Eliab,¹¹ son of Nathaniel, son of Shelumiel,¹² son of Zurishaddai,¹³ son of Simeon,¹⁴ son of Israel. **2** And her husband Manasseh belonged to her tribe and her fatherland, but he had died during *the* days of the barley harvest. **3** For while he was in the plain supervising those who bound the sheaves, he suffered sunstroke; and he took to his bed and came-to-his-end in his *native* city, Bethulia. So he was buried with his fathers in the field between Dothan and Balamon. **4** And the widowed Judith remained three years and four months at her home, **5** and she set up a tent for herself on the roof of her house. And she put sackcloth around her waist and dressed in widow’s robes.¹⁵ **6** And she fasted all the days of her widowhood,¹⁶ except sabbath-eves, and sabbaths, and new-moon-eves, and new-moons, and festivals, and *days* of joyfulness of *the* house of Israel. **7** And her appearance was very beautiful, and her countenance was blooming. And her husband¹⁷ Manasseh¹⁸ had left her gold and silver, and boys and servant-girls, and livestock, and fields; and she maintained this *estate*. **8** And no one had a wicked word to *say* against her, because she feared God very much.

9 And *Judith* heard the wicked words which the people, because their souls were discouraged by their lack of water, had spoken against the chief. And she heard all of the accounts which Uzziah had uttered to them *in reply*, and how¹⁹ he listened and²⁰ swore that he would surrender the city to the Assyrians at the end of

five days. **10** So she sent her maid, who was in charge of all she possessed, to summon Uzziah and²¹ Chabri and Carmi, the elders of her city.

11 And they came to her, and she said to them, “Listen to me, chiefs of those who dwell in Bethulia! The account which you uttered to the people today is not right. You have even sworn and uttered this oath²² between God and yourselves, and saying that *you* will surrender the city to our enemies at *the* end of *five* days unless *the* Lord turns to help us. **12** And now, who are you to try God today, and to set yourselves up in the place of²³ God in human affairs?²⁴ **13** And now, it is *the* Lord Almighty whom you are probing; so will you never learn anything?²⁵ **14** Because you cannot plumb *the* depth of a human heart,²⁶ or grasp the rationalizations of a *human’s* intent; so how do you expect to search out God, who has made all these things, or to discern his mind or to comprehend his rationalization?²⁷

“No, my brothers, do not anger *the* Lord our God. **15** Because if he does not wish to come to our aid within these five days, it is within his authority to shelter us on any day he wants to, or even to exterminate us before *the* face of our enemies.²⁸ **16** But it is not for you to make *the* Lord our God give surety for his councils. Because God is not a human that he should be moved by threats; nor a son of a human that he may be given an ultimatum.²⁹ **17** For this reason, while we wait for his salvation, let us call upon him to help us, and he will heed our voice,³⁰ if it is his *good* pleasure.

18 “Because never in our generation, nor in these present days, has there stood-up any tribe, or ancestral-house, or populace, or city of ours which bows-down to gods made with hands, as was done in the former days. **19** It was for such conduct that our fathers were handed over to the long-sword and to pillage, and fell with a great catastrophe before our enemies. **20** But because we acknowledge no other god but him, we hope that he will not disdain us or anyone from our race.³¹ **21** Because if we are taken, all Judah will be taken,³² and our holy-places will be plundered; and *God* will make us pay for its profanation with our blood. **22** And for the murder of our brothers, and for the taking of captives from the land, and for the desolation of our inheritance—all this³³ he will bring upon our heads. Wherever we shall be enslaved among the nations, we shall be a stumbling-block and a reproach in the eyes of those who acquire us. **23** Because our slavery will not be turned to our favor, instead *the* Lord our God will maintain it to our dishonor.

24 “And now, my brothers, let us set an example for our brothers, because their souls depend upon us; and *the* *defense* of the holy-places, and the house, and the sacrificial-altar, rests upon us. **25** In spite of all this, let us give thanks to *the* Lord our God for trying us, as he did with our fathers. **26** Recall how he dealt with Abraham, and how he tried Isaac, and everything which happened to³⁴ Jacob in Paddan-aram,³⁵ while he was tending the flocks of Laban, his mother’s brother. **27** Because it was not for vengeance that *the* Lord tried them by fire to examine their hearts, and *likewise* he has not done so with us; instead *the* Lord scourges those who are close to him, *in order* to admonish them.”

28 Then Uzziah said to her, “All that you have said was uttered from a good heart, and there is no one who can gainsay your accounts. **29** Because today is not the first time your wisdom has been clear, instead, from the beginning of your days, all the people have recognized your understanding, *for* your heart’s disposition is good. **30** Instead, the people were so extremely thirsty that they compelled us to utter *these things* to them as we did, and to bind ourselves by an oath which we cannot break. **31** And now, because you are a religious³⁶ woman, beseech *God* for us and our God will promptly hear,³⁷ so that *the* Lord may send us the rain to fill up our cisterns, so that we may not continue to grow even weaker.”

¹ [7:22] Vul omits “Their children...any strength.”

² literally “uttering”

³ [7:27] LXX (bcejlw) add

⁴ [7:28] LXX (irSN), Syr, OL, Vul / LXX (BAS) “do not”

⁵ [7:30] Vul adds

⁶ [7:32] Vul omits “Then he dismissed...misery.”

⁷ [8:1] 58, OL, Syr “Judith was living in the city”

⁸ [8:1] Emend [see Gen22:21] / most LXX / LXX(B), OL(S), Syr “Oz” / OL(m) “ioas” / Vul “idox”

⁹ [8:1] most LXX / LXX(A) “akithon” / LXX(N) “akinthon” / LXX(B) omits “son of Hananiah...Ahitub” /

Midrash has only “Judith daughter of Ahitub” for her entire genealogy

¹⁰ [8:1] LXX (fk), OL(s), Syr “Melchia” / LXX(A), Eth omit “son of Hilkiah”

¹¹ [8:1] LXX(S), Copt “Enab”

¹² [8:1] most LXX / LXX(S) “Shemumiel” / LXX(A) “Shelumina”

¹³ [8:1] LXX (BS) / most LXX “Zalashaddai”

¹⁴ [8:1] LXX (Nbfkr), OL, Syr, Vul / all others omit “son of Simeon”

¹⁵ literally “in the robes of her widowhood”

¹⁶ [8:6] Midrash “Each day she used to prostrate herself before the Holy and Blessed One in ashes and sackcloth.”

¹⁷ [8:7] 58, OL, Syr “shapely, and wise in heart, and good in understanding, and she was rich, for her husband”

¹⁸ [8:8] OL(s) adds Manasseh’s genealogy (which is a copy of the same material found in 8:1)

¹⁹ [8:9] most LXX / LXX(B) “who”

²⁰ [8:9] 58, OL, Syr adds

²¹ [8:10] LXX(N), most mins., Syr / LXX (BAS) omits “Uzziah and”

²² [8:11] B, X omit “this oath”

²³ [8:12] OL, Syr “up as”

²⁴ literally “in *the* middle of *the* sons of humans”

²⁵ [8:13] literally “...and learn nothing even to the age” / 58, Syr, OL “It is the mind of the Almighty whom you are proving, and no human will ever know.”

²⁶ literally “a heart of a human”

²⁷ [8:12–14] Vul “This is not a word that may draw down mercy, but rather that may stir up wrath, and enkindle indignation. You have set a time for the mercy of the Lord, and you have appointed him a day, according to your pleasure. But forasmuch as the Lord is patient, let us be penitent for this same thing, and with many tears let us beg his pardon.”

²⁸ [8:15] 58, Syr “For he is able, in any length of time, to protect us and destroy our enemies before our eyes.”

²⁹ [8:16] most LXX / LXX(N) “he may be indecisive”

³⁰ [8:17] 19, 23, 44, 55 al. “petition”

³¹ [8:18–20] Vul “For we have not followed the sins of your fathers, who forsook their God, and worshipped strange gods. For which crime they were given up to their enemies, to the sword, and to pillage, and the Lord our God will require our blood of the afflictions of our enemies, and he will humble all the nations that shall rise up against us, and bring them to disgrace.”

³² [8:21] LXX (fk), OL / LXX (BAS) “will sit” / LXX (begs) “will lie prostrate”

³³ [8:22] LXX omits “all this”

³⁴ [8:26] LXX(N) “and how he tested”

³⁵ [8:26] Hebrew equivalent / Greek “Mesopotamia”

³⁶ [8:31] LXX (fk), Syr, OL “a pious” / Vul “a holy”

³⁷ [8:31] LXX (fk), OL, Syr add

32 Then Judith said to them, “Listen to me. I am about to do something wise¹ which will be passed down from generation to generation among the descendants of our race. 33 Stand at the *city* gate tonight, and let me go out with my maid; and within the days which you have said that you would surrender the city to our enemies, *the* Lord will look-after Israel by my hand as I trust.² 34 But you must not inquire into what I am doing; for I will not tell you until my plan has been accomplished.”

35 So Uzziah and the chiefs said to her, “Go in peace, and may *the* Lord God go before you, to take vengeance upon our enemies.”

36 And they withdrew from the tent, returning to their posts.³

CHAPTER 9

Now Judith fell down on her face, and put ashes on her head, and took off her dress,⁴ and uncovered the sackcloth she was wearing. And at the very time when the evening incense was being offered in the house of God in Jerusalem, Judith cried out to *the* Lord with a loud voice, and said,

2 “O Lord, God of my *forefather* Simeon, into whose hand you put a long-sword to take revenge upon those foreigners, who had loosened the virgin’s fillet⁵ to defile her, and exposed her thighs to shame her, and profaned her womb to disgrace her; for you said, ‘It shall not be done’—yet they did it. 3 So you handed their chiefs over to murder; and their bed, in which they lay deluded, and which had felt the shame of their own delusion,⁶ was stained with their blood. And you struck down slaves together with powerful *men*, and powerful *men* on their thrones. 4 And their women you handed over to plunder, and their daughters to captivity; and you divided all the spoils among your beloved sons. And *your sons* were zealous with zeal for you; and in abhorrence that their own blood had been defiled, called upon you for help.

“O God, my God, hear me also, a widow. 5 For you were the author of these events, and those which preceded and those which followed. You have planned the things that are present, as well as those that are to come. And whatever you take counsel *to do* comes into being; 6 and the things which you decide on come forward and say, ‘Behold, here we are!’ For all of your ways are prepared in advance, and your judgment is⁷ made with foreknowledge.

7 “For behold *the* Assyrians are multiplied in their power, they are raised-high with horse and rider; they pranced in *the* arm of infantry, they hoped in round-shield and in iron-spear and bow and sling. And they did not know that you are *the* Lord who crushes wars; Yahweh⁸ is your name. 8 Shatter their strength in your power eternal, crush their number,⁹ and bring down their might in your fury; for they took counsel to profane your holy-places, and to defile the dwelling-place where the name of your glory resides, to break off the horns¹⁰ of your sacrificial-altar with iron *weapons*. 9 Look into their arrogance. Send forth your anger upon their heads. Give to me, a widow, a mighty hand to execute my plan. 10 By the delusion of my lips, strike down *the* slave together with *the* chief and *the* chief together with his servant; crush their pride by *the* hand of a female. Send your wrath upon their heads. What I need, give into my hands, a widow’s.¹¹

11 “For your might does not stand in numbers, nor does your power¹² depend upon strong *men*. Instead, you are a god of lowly *men*, a helper of inferior *men*, an upholder of *men* who are weak, a protector of *men* who have been in despair, a savior of *men* who have been without hope.

12 “Yes, yes, the God of my *forefather*, and *the* God of the heritage of Israel, *the* Master of the heavens and the earth, *the* Founder of the waters, *the* King of all your creation, hear my entreaty! 13 And make my speech and delusion bring a wound and a welt upon those who have taken counsel to do cruel things against your covenant, and *against* your holy house, and *against* Mount¹³ Zion, and *against* the house which your sons have inherited. 14 And let your whole nation¹⁴ and¹⁵ every tribe know *and* understand that you are God, *the* God¹⁶ of all power and might, and that there is no other who protects the race of Israel but you alone!”

¹ [8:32] 58, OL, Syr add

² [8:33] LXX(ik), OL, Syr add

³ [8:36] 58, OL “So they returned, going down from the tent.”

⁴ [9:1] LXX(ik), OL, Syr add

⁵ [9:2] Emendation / LXX “womb”

⁶ [9:3] LXX(B) / LXX(AS), some mins. “bed, blushing for her deceived”

⁷ [9:6] LXX(A) “your judgments are”

⁸ [9:7] Emendation (original Hebrew) / all translations “; the Lord”

⁹ [9:8] LXX(ik), OL(s), Syr add

¹⁰ [9:8] Syr / LXX “horn”

¹¹ [9:10] LXX(S) adds

¹² [9:11] LXX(ik), OL(s), Syr “share”

¹³ literally “peak”

¹⁴ [9:14] LXX(ik), OL “Let every nation”

¹⁵ [9:14] LXX(ik) “of” / OL omits altogether

¹⁶ [9:14] LXX(B) omits “the God” by scribal error

CHAPTER 10

And as soon as Judith had ceased crying out to the God of Israel, and had concluded all these words, 2 she stood-up from where she lay prostrate.¹⁷ And she called her maid, and they went down into the house where she spent her days on the sabbaths and on the festivals. 3 And she removed the sackcloth she had been wearing, and took off her widow’s robes,¹⁸ and washed her body with water, and anointed herself with precious ointment. And she arranged¹⁹ the hair on her head and bound it with a fillet, and dressed herself in the robes of gladness which she used to wear during the days of the life of her husband Manasseh. 4 And she chose sandals for her feet; and put on her anklets, and her bracelets, and her rings, and her earrings, and *all the rest of* her other ornamentation. And the Lord also gave her more beauty, because none of this dressing up proceeded from sensuality, but from virtue. And this was how she made herself very beautiful,²⁰ to captivate²¹ the eyes of as many men as would see her.

5 And she gave her maid a leather-skin of wine and a cruse of olive-oil. And she filled a pouch with roasted-grain, and dried fig cakes, and clean bread and cheese;²² then she wrapped up all of her containers and gave them to the maid to carry.

6 Then they went out to the city gate of Bethulia, and found Uzziah standing there with the elders of the city, Chabri and Carmi. 7 But when these men saw *Judith* transformed in her countenance and dressed differently, they marveled very much at her beauty and said to her, 8 “May the God of our fathers grant you favor, and fulfill your plans, for *the* boast of *the* sons of Israel and the exultation of Jerusalem.”

And she²³ bowed down to God. 9 Then she said to them, “Order the city gate to be opened for me, so that I may go out and accomplish the topics which we discussed.”²⁴

They said to her, “Have you, perhaps, defected to the other side?”

She answered, “Heaven forbid!”²⁵

So they ordered the youths to open the gate for her as she²⁶ requested.²⁷ 10 And when they had done this, Judith went out, accompanied by her servant-girl. Now the men of the city watched her until she had gone down the mountain *and* crossed the gorge, where they lost sight of her.

11 And as *Judith and her maid* walked straight on through the gorge, they encountered an advanced-guard of the Assyrians. 12 And *the men* took her into custody and inquired of her, “To what *people* do you belong? And where are you coming from, and where are you going?”

And she answered, “I am a daughter of the Hebrews; and I am fleeing from them, because they are about to be delivered up to you as prey. 13 And I have come to see the face of Holofernes, *the* chief-general of your force, to bring him a message of words of truth. And I will show him the route by which he can ascend and take possession of the whole mountain-region without losing a single one of his men’s bodies or spirits of life.”²⁸

14 Now when the men heard her words, and had gazed upon her face, which was marvelously very beautiful in their eyes, they said to her, 15 “By promptly coming down to see the face of our lord, you have thereby saved your soul. And now go at once to his tent, and some of us will escort you and hand you over to him. 16 But when you stand before him, have no fear in your heart; instead, give him the message which you speak of,²⁹ and he will treat you well.”³⁰

17 So they selected a hundred of their men to accompany her and her maid, and these conducted them to Holofernes’ tent. 18 And a tumultuous-crowd came together throughout the whole camp, for the news of her arrival spread among the tents. And coming, they surrounded her as she stood waiting outside Holofernes’ tent, while a message about her was being brought before him. 19 And they marveled at her beauty, and admired the sons of Israel because of her, and they accepted her words because they were good.³¹ And they said to one another, “Who can despise this people, who has women such as this among them? It is not good³² to leave one of their men alive, for if any were to be spared, they could beguile all the earth!”

20 Then those who slept³³ beside Holofernes, and all his servants, came out and ushered her into the tent. 21 And Holofernes was reclining on his bed under a

¹⁷ [10] Midrash mentions that “The Holy and Blessed One put it into her heart that a miracle would be performed through her.”

¹⁸ literally “the robes of her widowhood”

¹⁹ [10:3] most LXX / LXX(sb), OL “combed” / OL(c), Vul “plaited” / Syr “anointed”

²⁰ [10:4] Vul “And the Lord also...virtue. Thus the Lord increased her beauty”

²¹ [10:4] LXX(NS), Eth / LXX(ik), OL(sm), Syr “ravaging” / most LXX “meeting”

²² [10:5] most LXX / LXX(bfk), OL, Syr, Vul, Late Hebrew add

²³ [10:8] LXX(N), many mins. “they”

²⁴ [10:9] literally “the accounts which you uttered to me” (for “words”) / Midrash “Open *the gates* for me, so that a miracle might be accomplished through me.”

²⁵ [10:9] Midrash adds

²⁶ [10:9] LXX(ANS), most mins & verss / LXX(Bfk) “they”

²⁷ literally “uttered”

²⁸ [10:13] Midrash simply has “She said to them, ‘I have a secret matter for the king.’”

²⁹ literally “message of your words”

³⁰ [10:16] LXX(A) “fairly”

³¹ [10:19] LXX(k), OL, Syr add

³² literally “beautiful”

³³ [10:20] 58, Syr “sat”

canopy which was interwoven with purple and gold, and emeralds and *other* very-expensive stones. **22** And they brought back a message about her to him, and said to him, “A beautiful virgin has come from Jerusalem, saying, ‘I have a secret matter for the king.’”

And he said, “Let her come in.”¹

And he came out to the tent’s antechamber, with very many silver lamps carried before him, and they brought her to him.² **23** Now when Judith went³ before the face of *Holofernes* and his servants, they all marveled at the beauty of her face. And she fell down on her face before him, but his slaves raised her up.

CHAPTER 11

Then Holofernes said to her, “Take courage, woman, have no fear in your heart! Because I have never harmed any human who chose to be enslaved to Seleukos, king of all the earth. **2** Even now, I would not have raised my spear against your people who dwell in the mountain-region, had they not debased me; instead, they have brought this upon themselves. **3** And now, tell me why you have fled from them and have come over to us. In any event,⁴ you have come to salvation. Take courage! You will live tonight and ever after. **4** For no one will do *anything* unrighteous to you. Instead, you will be well treated, as are all the slaves of my lord, King Seleukos.”

5 And Judith said to him, “Accept the words of your slave-woman, and let your servant-girl speak⁵ in your presence. And I will report⁶ no lie to my lord this night. **6** And if you follow out the accounts of your servant-girl, God will give you complete success, and my lord will not fail to achieve his purposes. **7** For by the life of Seleukos, king of all the earth, and by the life of the might of him who has sent you forth to straighten out every soul, not only do humans enslave themselves to him because of you, *but* instead through your strength, even the beasts of the field and the livestock and the birds of the heavens will live for Seleukos and his whole house. **8** For we have heard of your wisdom and the great-deeds of your soul, and messages have been carried throughout all the earth that you alone are the best *man* in the whole kingdom, and powerful in experience, and marvelous in war tactics.

9 “And now my lord, as for the speech which Achior uttered in your congress,⁷ we have heard his words. Because when the men of Bethulia spared him, he brought back a message to us *regarding* everything which he had uttered to you.⁸ **10** For this reason, my master, *my* lord,⁹ do not disregard his account; instead, keep it in your heart, because it is true. For our race cannot be punished, nor does a long-sword prevail against them, unless they sin against their God.

11 “And now, lest my lord be repulsed and ineffectual, death will fall upon their face; *for* their sinful-actions have caught up with them, by which they provoke their God to anger whenever they perform a deviation.¹⁰ **12** Since their food supply is exhausted and their water has almost given out, they have taken counsel to kill their livestock and to drink their blood,¹¹ and have determined to consume everything which God, in his laws, has forbidden them to eat. **13** And they have decided to consume the first fruits of the grain and the tenths of the wine and the olive-oil, which they had made holy *and* set aside for the priests who stand before the face of our God in Jerusalem—things which it is not *lawful* for any of the people *even* to touch with his hands. **14** And since even those who dwell in Jerusalem have been doing this, they have sent forth *men* there in order to bring back to them permission from the body of seniors. **15** And on that very day, when the message is carried back to them and they act upon it, they will be handed over to you for destruction.

16 “As soon as I, your slave-woman, learned all this, I fled from them. And God has sent me forth to perform with you such deeds which will astonish all the earth wherever *people* hear about them. **17** Because your slave-woman is herself a God-revering *woman*, and serves the God of the heavens night and day. So now, I will remain with you, my lord; but every night your slave-woman will go out into the ravine and pray to God. And he will tell me when *the sons of Israel* have committed their sinful-actions. **18** Then I will come and let you know, so that you may go out with your whole force, and not one of them will be able to oppose you. **19** Then I will lead you through Judah, until you come to Jerusalem; and there I will set your throne. And you will drive them like sheep who have no shepherd, and not even a dog will so much as growl at you. Because this was told to me according to my foreknowledge; and a message *concerning* it was brought

¹ [10:22] Midrash adds

² [10:22] LXX(ik), OL(s), Syr adds “very many” & “and they brought her to him”

³ [10:23] 58, OL, Syr “stood”

⁴ literally “For”

⁵ literally “utter”

⁶ literally “will carry back a message which is”

⁷ [11:9] 58, OL, Syr add “my lord” and omit “in your congress”

⁸ [11:9] 58 omits “to you”

⁹ [11:10] 58 omits “lord, master”

¹⁰ [11:11] 58, OL, Syr “they do it”

¹¹ [11:12] LXX / OL, Vul, Midrash adds

to me, and I in turn have been sent forth to bring this message to you, because they are an abomination to me and my master Seleukos.¹²

20 And her accounts pleased Holofernes and all his servants. And they marveled at her beauty and¹³ wisdom and said, **21** “No other woman from one end of the earth to *the other* end has a face so beautiful, and speaks so intelligently!”¹⁴

22 Then Holofernes said to her, “God has done well in sending you forth ahead of the people, to give strength to our hands, and to bring perdition to those who have debased my lord. **23** And now, you are not only urban in your appearance, but your accounts are well *spoken*. Because, if you do as you have uttered, your God shall be my God, and you shall dwell in *the* house of King Seleukos, and shall be famous throughout all the earth.”

CHAPTER 12

Then he directed them to lead her into *the room* where his silver-dinnerware was kept, and ordered them to set a table for her with his own delicacies *to eat*, and with some of his own wine to drink. While they were preparing it, he ordered all the princes to leave, as he wished to be alone with the virgin.¹⁵

2 But Judith said, “I will not eat them for myself, in order that it might not become an impediment; instead, I will be supplied from the *things* which *I* have brought with me.”

3 And Holofernes said to her, “But if your provisions run out, from where shall we get more of the same *to provide* for you? For none of your race are here with us.”¹⁶

4 And Judith said to him, “As surely as your soul lives, my lord, your slave-woman will not use up the supplies I have with me¹⁷ before *the Lord God*¹⁸ accomplishes, by my hand, what he has determined.”

Then he asked her to sin.

But she answered and said, “Indeed, my lord king, for this very thing I have come here with all my heart. But now, it is impossible, for I am in my *monthly impurity*. Tonight is the time of my purification. Therefore, I desire that you proclaim throughout the camp that no one should touch the woman and her handmaid when she goes out at night to the spring of water. And when I *am finished*, I will give myself over to the king, that he might do whatever is pleasing in his sight.”

The wicked man did so accordingly.¹⁹ **5** Then the servants of Holofernes led her into the tent, and she slept until midnight. And toward the morning watch²⁰ she stood up, **6** and she sent a *message* to Holofernes, saying, “Let my lord now give orders to allow your slave-woman to go out for prayer.”

7 So Holofernes ordered his bodyguards not to hinder her. So she remained in the camp²¹ three days. And each night she went out to the ravine of Bethulia, and she immersed herself in the water of the spring in the camp.²² **8** And after bathing, she besought the Lord God of Israel to direct her way for the triumph of the sons of his²³ people. **9** Then she returned, clean, to the tent, where she remained until she ate her food toward evening.

10 And on the fourth day, Holofernes held a drinking *party* for his personal slaves alone, and to which he did not invite any of his officers.²⁴ **11** And he said to Bagohi, the eunuch in charge of his personal affairs, “Go and persuade this Hebrew woman who is in your care to join us and to eat and drink with us. **12** For behold, it would be a disgrace if we let such a woman go without enjoying her company. Because if we do not seduce her, she will ridicule us.”

13 So Bagohi left the presence of Holofernes, and approached *Judith* and said, “So beautiful a servant-girl should not be reluctant to come to my lord to be glorified in his presence, and drink wine with us in gladness, and become today like a daughter of the sons of Asshur who are attendants²⁵ in *the* house of Seleukos.”

14 And Judith said to him, “And who am I to refuse my lord? Because whatever is pleasing to him I will do at once, and this will be a joy²⁶ for me until *the* day of my death.”

¹² [12:19] several OL add / Midrash summarizes Judith’s entire speech starting at 11:5 (adding a few new pieces of possible information to her history) “My lord king, I belong to a great family in Jerusalem. And my brothers and my father’s house were kings and chief-priests. I have now heard them speak about you, that the time has arrived for this city to fall into your hands. Therefore I have come in advance to find favor in your eyes.”

¹³ [11:20] 58, OL, Syr add

¹⁴ [12:20–21] literally “and has such intelligence of accounts” / Midrash has for these verses, “When the king beheld her beautiful countenance and heard her words, she found favor in his eyes; and he rejoiced at the tidings she brought him.”

¹⁵ [12:1] Midrash adds

¹⁶ [12:3] LXX(ik), OL, Syr “here who has such things”

¹⁷ [12:4] Syr, OL, few others “her”

¹⁸ [12:4] LXX / 19, 106 “before God” / 23 “before the Lord God”

¹⁹ [12:4] Midrash adds (this might have originally stood in the text, or at least some variant of it)

²⁰ [12:5] OL “Before light”

²¹ [12:6] some omit “in the camp”

²² [12:7] LXX(m), OL, Syr omit “in the camp”

²³ [12:8] LXX(BNS) / LXX(A), most mins, Eth, Syr “her”

²⁴ [12:10] Midrash “And in that night, he invited all the princes, his generals and his servants.”

²⁵ literally “who attend”

²⁶ [12:14] Syr “boast”

15 So she proceeded to adorn herself in her clothing and all her feminine ornamentation. And her slave-woman went ahead; and taking the fleece which had been furnished by Bagohi for her daily use in reclining *at dinner, the slave* spread it out on the ground for her in front of Holofernes. 16 Then Judith came in and reclined on it. Holofernes' heart was ravished with her, and his soul was aroused; and he was very desirous to have intercourse with her, *for* he had been waiting for an opportunity to delude¹ her from *the day* he first saw her.

17 So Holofernes said to her, "Drink with us, and be made-to-be with us in gladness!"

18 And Judith said, "I will gladly drink, my lord, because today has become greatest of all the days of my life since *the day* of my birth."

19 Then she took what her slave-woman had prepared, eating and drinking in front of him. 20 And Holofernes was delighted by her, and drank a great quantity of wine, much more than he had ever drunk in any one day since he was born.²

CHAPTER 13

But when evening came, they said, "Let us depart, for he wishes to be alone with the Hebrew woman." So, his slaves quickly withdrew. And Bagohi closed the tent from outside and excluded the attendants from their lord's presence. And they went off to their beds, for they were all tired because the drinking party had lasted so long. 2 But Judith was left alone in the tent with Holofernes, who lay prostrate on his bed, for he was sodden with the wine.³ 3 Now Judith had told her slave-woman to stand outside the bedchamber and to wait for her to come out, as she did on the other days; for she declared that she would be going out for her prayer. And she had uttered the same words to Bagohi.

4 And when everyone had departed from his presence,⁴ and no one, either small or great, was left in the bedchamber, Judith stood beside his bed,⁵ praying in tears, and said in her heart, "O Lord, the God of all power, in this hour look graciously upon the works of my hands, *which I do* for the elevation of Jerusalem. 5 Because now is *the season* for aiding your inheritance and for carrying out my design to destroy⁶ *the enemies* who have risen up against us."

6 And she went up to the bedpost near Holofernes' head, and took down his falchion from it. 7 And she drew close to his bed, took hold of the hair of his head, and said, "Strengthen me⁷ this day, O Lord,⁸ the God of Israel!"

8 Then with all her strength, she struck his neck twice, and cut off his head. 9 Then she rolled his body off the bed onto the floor⁹ and pulled down the canopy from its posts. And soon afterward, she came out and gave Holofernes' head to her maid, 10 who placed it in her food pouch. Then the two of them went out together, as they were accustomed to do as if for the prayer.¹⁰

When they left, the sentries noticed them, but they said to one another, "No man may touch them, such is the king's command."¹¹

So they passed through the camp, skirted the ravine, and went up the mountain to Bethulia, and approached its gates in the middle of the night.¹² 11 And from a distance Judith said to the sentries at the gates, "Open! Open the gate! God, our God, is with us. Once more he has displayed his strength in Israel and his might against our enemies; and he has done it this very day!"¹³

12 And when the men of the¹⁴ city heard her voice, they hurried down to the gate of their city and summoned the elders of the city. 13 And everyone, *both small and great,*¹⁵ hurriedly gathered together, because it seemed unbelievable that she had returned.

The gatekeepers answered her, "Is it not sufficient enough that you have defiled yourself? And now you desire to betray the blood of Israel to their enemies?"

So she swore to them, but they would not believe her until she showed them the head of that wicked king; only then they believed her.¹⁶ And they opened the gate and welcomed *the two women.* Then, lighting a fire to give light, they gathered around *the two.* And she went up to a higher place, and commanded silence to be made.

¹ [12:16] LXX(fk), OL, Syr "meet"

² [12:20] Midrash "And they [including the generals, etc] ate and rejoiced at that great feast and became drunk."

³ [13:2] LXX, OL / Midrash, starting at verse 13:1, has "But when they saw that the king's head was dropped, they said, ...woman." So they all went out and left the king alone with the virgin and her handmaid."

⁴ [13:4] LXX(dgmps), OL(p) adds "from his presence" / LXX(fk) adds "from Holofernes' presence" / LXX(AN), most mins, others add "from her presence"

⁵ [13:4] LXX(k), Syr, OL, Eth "head" / Vul adds "praying in tears"

⁶ [13:5] LXX(B) / LXX(AN), many mins. "crush"

⁷ literally "Make me mighty"

⁸ [13:7] LXX(BNbfh) omit "Lord"

⁹ [13:9] Eth, OL(m) add

¹⁰ [13:10] 58, Syr, OL "as if for prayer" / B omits altogether

¹¹ [13:10] Midrash adds

¹² [13:10] Midrash adds

¹³ [13:11] Midrash "They called upon the gatekeepers and said, 'Open the gates for us, for the miracle has already come to pass.'"

¹⁴ [13:12] LXX(S), 44, 106, 58, OL, Syr / most LXX "her"

¹⁵ [13:13] LXX(fk) "from young to old"

¹⁶ [13:12] Midrash adds

14 Now when everyone was quiet,¹⁷ she said to them with a loud voice, "Praise God, O praise him! Praise God, who has not withdrawn his mercy from the house of Israel. Instead, *he* has shattered our enemies by my hand this very night!"

15 Then, pulling the head out of the pouch, she showed it to them, and said, "Behold, the head of Holofernes, *the chief-general of the Assyrian force.* And behold, here is the canopy beneath which he lay in his drunken stupor. And the Lord has struck him down by the hand of a female. 16 And as *the Lord lives,* who has protected me in the path I have followed, I swear that it was my face which deluded him to his perdition, and that he committed no sinful-act with me, *neither* to defile nor shame me. All of you, give glory to him, because he is good, because his mercy endures forever."¹⁸

17 And all of the people were greatly astonished. And bending down, they bowed down to God, and said with one accord, "Blessed are you, our God, who this day have brought the enemies of your people to naught."

18 Then Uzziah said to her, "O daughter, you are blessed by God the Most High above all the women on earth; and blest be *the Lord God,* the Creator of the heavens and the earth, who has guided you to sever¹⁹ the head of a chief of our enemies. 19 Because your²⁰ *deed of hope*²¹ will never depart from *any* human heart²² which remembers *the strength* of God *even* until the age. 20 And may God make this redound to your perpetual honor, and may he look-over you with good-things, because you did not spare your own soul when our race was being humiliated; instead you averted our ruin and walked in a straight path before our God."

And all the people said, "Let it be. Let it be."

CHAPTER 14

Then Judith said to them, "Listen to me, my brothers, and, taking this head, hang it upon the parapet of your wall. 2 And as soon as day breaks, when the sun rises on the earth, let each of you take up his implements of war, and let every strong man rush out of the city; and set a chief-captain over²³ them, as if you were about to go down into the plain against the advanced-guard of *the sons of Asshur;* only do not go down. 3 Then they will seize their full suits of armor and hurry into their camp and rouse the generals of the Assyrian force. And when they run into the tent of Holofernes and do not find him,²⁴ fear will seize them, and they will flee from before you. 4 Then you and all who dwell within *the territory* of Israel will pursue them, striking them down in their tracks. 5 But before doing all this, call Achior the Ammonite for me, so that he may see and recognize the man who despised the house of Israel, *the man who* sent him forth to us, as if to his death."

6 So they called Achior from the house of Uzziah. Now when he came and saw the head of Holofernes in the hand of one of the men in the assembly of the people, he fell down on his face and his spirit fainted. 7 But after they lifted him up,²⁵ he fell down at Judith's feet in homage, and said, "Blest are you in every tent of Judah! And in every nation, those who hear your name will be disturbed. 8 And now, give me a message of everything which you have done during these days."

So in the presence of the people, Judith gave him a message about everything which she had done from the day she left until the moment she began speaking²⁶ to them. 9 Now when she had finished speaking,²⁷ the people raised a great shout, and their city resounded with joyful noise. 10 But when Achior saw all that the God of Israel had done,²⁸ he left the religion of the heathen and believed firmly in God. So he circumcised the flesh of his foreskin, and he has been united with the house of Israel with all the succession of his kindred²⁹ until this day.

11 Now at the break of dawn, they hung the head of Holofernes on the wall. Then every man of Israel³⁰ took up their weapons and went out in cohorts to the mountain passes. 12 But when the sons of Asshur saw them, they notified their leaders; but these, in turn, went to the generals and tribunes and to all their other chiefs. 13 And they came to Holofernes' tent and said to the one³¹ in charge of all his personal affairs, "Wake up our lord, because the slaves have dared to come down against us to give war, to be completely exterminated."³²

¹⁷ [13:13-14] Vul adds

¹⁸ [13:16] Vul "As the Lord lives, his messenger has been my protector both going out and staying there and returning from there to here; and the Lord has not allowed me, his handmaid, to be defiled, but has brought me back to you without the pollution of sin, rejoicing for his victory, for my escape, and for your deliverance. All of you...forever."

¹⁹ [13:18] 58 omits "to sever"

²⁰ [13:19] LXX(fk), OL, Syr, Eth "our"

²¹ [14:19] LXX(fk), OL, Syr "praise"

²² literally "a heart of a human"

²³ [14:2] LXX(Batku) / LXX(Ndghlps), Eth, Copt, Syr "against"

²⁴ [14:5] Vul "they find him without his head wallowing in his blood"

²⁵ [14:7] most LXX / LXX(ANbhu), Copt, OL "When he recovered himself"

²⁶ literally "uttering"

²⁷ literally "uttering"

²⁸ [14:10] 58, OL, Syr "that God had done for Israel"

²⁹ [14:13] LXX / Vul, Midrash add "left...and" & "with all...kindred"

³⁰ [14:11] most LXX / LXX(Bc) adds

³¹ [14:13] Syr, OL "to Bagoas"

³² [14:13] LXX / Vul, Midrash (similar) "Go in and awake him; for the mice, coming out of their holes, have presumed to challenge us for battle."

14 So Bagohi went in and knocked at the entry of the tent, for he supposed that he was sleeping with Judith. 15 But when no one answered,¹ he parted the curtains and entered the bedchamber, and found him sprawled on the floor, dead and with his head missing. 16 And he cried out with a loud voice, with weeping, and groaning, and a strong outcry; and he tore his robes. 17 Then he entered the tent where Judith had lodged; and when he did not find her, he rushed out to the people and shouted, 18 “The slaves have tricked us! A single Hebrew woman has brought disgrace upon the house of King Seleukos. Because, look, Holofernes is lying on the ground, and he doesn’t have his head!”

19 But when the chiefs of the Assyrian force heard these words, they tore their tunics and their souls were seized with much consternation. And their very loud crying and shouting arose throughout the camp.

CHAPTER 15

And on hearing what had happened, the men still in their tents were amazed. 2 And overcome with trembling and fear, the humans no longer kept ranks with one another; instead, streaming out with one accord, they fled along every road across the plain and through the mountain-region. 3 And those who had encamped in the mountain-region around Bethulia also took to flight. And then all the sons of Israel, all the men who were warriors, rushed out upon them.

4 And Uzziah sent men to Betomasthaim, Bebai,² and Choba³ and Kola, and within all the borders of Israel, to bring a message of what had taken place and to urge everyone to rush out upon their foes to do away with them. 5 But on hearing this, the sons of Israel, with one accord, fell upon their foes, and cut them down as far as Choba. But even those in Jerusalem and all the mountain-region also came, for a message had also been carried back to them about what had happened in the camp of their enemies. And the Gileadites and the Galileans outflanked them with great strike, even beyond Damasek and its borders. 6 But those who remained dwelling in Bethulia fell down upon the Assyrian camp and plundered it, and acquired great riches. 7 But those sons of Israel returned from the butchering, and took possession of what remained. Even the villages and homes in the mountain-region and in the plain were crammed with the enormous quantity of spoils which they had seized.⁴

8 Then the great priest Joiakim, and the body-of-seniors of the sons of Israel who were dwelling in Jerusalem, came to behold the good-things which the Lord did for Israel, and to meet and congratulate⁵ Judith. 9 Now when they came to her,⁶ they all blessed her with one accord and said to her:

“You are a height of Jerusalem,
you are a great boast of Israel,
you are a surpassing joy of our race!

10 You have done all this with your own hand;
you have done these good-things to Israel,
and God is pleased with it.

May you be blest by the Almighty Lord into the time of the age!”⁷

And all the people said, “Let it be.”

11 And for thirty days, all the people plundered the camp. And they gave Judith the tent of Holofernes with all his silver-dinnerware, and his couches, and his bowls, and all his furniture. And she accepted them. And after harnessing her mules and hitching her wagons to them, she loaded these things on them.

12 And all the women of Israel gathered to see her, and they blest her and performed a dance in her honor.⁸ And she took ivy-wreathed rods in her hands and distributed them to the women around her; 13 and she and those who were with her crowned themselves with olive wreaths. And advancing before of all the people, she led the women in the dance, while all the men of Israel followed in their armor, wearing garlands and singing hymns. 14 So Judith led all Israel in this song of gratefulness, and all the people loudly sang⁹ this song of praise.

CHAPTER 16

And Judith said:

“Strike up a song to my God with tympanis,
sing to my Lord with cymbals.

¹ [14:15] others “no one paid heed”

² [15:4] LXX(BNS) / LXX(Ajru), Eth add

³ [15:4] LXX(N) / LXX(BA) “Chobai” / LXX(S) Abel-baim”

⁴ [] Midrash summarizes here from the point following the gates being opened for Judith. “And they turned that day into a festival. The next morning, the Israelites went forth against that army and slew them until they had annihilated them completely. The remnant left their horses and their money and fled. And the Israelites came and captured everything.”

⁵ Literally “and utter peace to”

⁶ [15:9] 19, 58, 108, Syr, OL “When she came out to them”

⁷ [15:10] 44, 106 omit “to the time of the age” / Vul (for entire verse) “For you have acted manfully, and your heart has been strengthened, because you have loved chastity, and after your husband you have not known any other. Therefore the hand of the Lord has also strengthened you, and therefore you shall be blessed forever.”

⁸ [15:12] Syr “her, and they chose from themselves a group of singers.”

⁹ [15:14] most LXX / LXX(ANDgpsu), OL(s), Syr “people echoed”

Raise to him a new psalm;¹⁰

and exalt him, and invoke his name.

2 Because the Lord is a god; he crushes wars;
the Lord is his name;¹¹
because he sets up his camp among his people;
he delivered me from the hands of my persecutors.

3 Asshur came down from the mountains of the north;
he came with tens of thousands of his forces;
their multitude blocked up the wadis,
and their cavalry covered the hills.

4 He said that he would burn up everything within my borders,¹²
and do away with my youths by the long-sword,
and dash my sucklings to the ground,
and seize my infants as prey,
and take my virgins as spoil.

5 But the Lord Almighty has foiled them,
by the hand of a female and brought them to shame.¹³

6 For their powerful-one did not fall by the hands of youths,
nor did sons of titans strike him down,
nor did lofty giants set upon him;
instead, Judith daughter of Merari
with the beauty of her face undid him.

7 For she took off her widow’s garb
to raise up the afflicted in Israel.

8 She oiled her face with fragrant oil;
and she fastened her hair with a fillet
and put on a linen gown as a delusion for him.

9 Her sandal ravished his eyes,
and her beauty captivated his soul,
the falchion severed his neck!

10 The Persians trembled at her courage,
and the Medes were daunted¹⁴ at her audacity.

11 At that time, my humbled people shouted,
and my weaklings cried out,¹⁵ and the enemy was intimidated;¹⁶
they lifted up their voices, and the enemy was overturned.

12 Sons of little-maidens pierced them through
and wounded them like the boys of¹⁷ fugitives;
they perished before the battle-line of my Lord.¹⁸

13 I will hymn a new hymn to my God:
O Lord, you are great and glorious,
marvelous in strength, insurpassable.

14 Let all your creatures be enslaved to you,
because you spoke, and they were made.
You sent forth your spirit, and it constructed them;¹⁹
and there is none that can resist your voice.

15 For mountains shall be shaken to their foundations along with the
waters;
but rocks shall melt like wax before your gaze.

But to those who fear you
you are very merciful.

16 Because the sweet fragrance of every sacrifice is a trifle,
and the fat of all holocausts is but very little in your sight;
but whoever fears the Lord is great forever.

17 Woe to the nations who rise up against my race!
The Lord Almighty will requite them;
he will punish them in the day of judgment;
he will send fire and worms into their flesh;
and they shall weep and suffer pain until the age.”

18 Now when the people arrived at Jerusalem, they bowed-down before God. And as soon as they were cleansed, they offered their holocausts, and their freewill-offerings, and their gifts. 19 And Judith dedicated, as a votive-offering to God, all the possessions of Holofernes, which the people had given her; as well as the canopy which she herself had taken from his bedchamber. 20 And for three months,²⁰ the people continued feasting in Jerusalem before the holy-places, and Judith remained with them.

¹⁰ [16:1] LXX(ANDgpsu), OL(s), Syr / most LXX “him a song of praise”

¹¹ [16:2] some OL add / 44, 106 omit “For the Lord...his name”

¹² [16:4] LXX(B) “mountains”

¹³ [16:5] LXX(bfk), OL, Syr adds

¹⁴ [16:10] LXX(AN), Eth / LXX(B) “shivered” / OL, Vul omit altogether

¹⁵ [16:11] LXX(N), many mins., OL(s), Syr / LXX(BASuv) “they were filled with fear”

¹⁶ [16:11] LXX(Nbhr) “was defeated”

¹⁷ [16:12] 19, 108, OL, Syr omit “the children of”

¹⁸ [16:7-12] LXX(k) omits “For she put away...his neck!” & omits “Then my oppressed people...ranks of my Lord.”

¹⁹ [16:14] LXX(Sr), OL, Eth “and they were constructed”

²⁰ [16:20] Syr “for a month of days”

21 Now when those days were over, each one returned *home* to his own inheritance,¹ and Judith went back to her house,² to Bethulia, and remained on her estate. And for the rest of her life³ she was held in good-repute throughout the whole land. 22 And many were eager to marry her; but after her husband Manasseh had died, who was gathered to his people, she gave herself to no man all the *remaining* days of her life. 23 And she became more and more great,⁴ growing old in her husband's house, reaching the age of 105. And she died in Bethulia, and they buried her in the cave of her husband Manasseh. 24 And *the* house of Israel mourned her for seven days. And before she died, she distributed her property to all of those closest to her husband Manasseh, and⁵ to her own closest race; and she set her maid free.⁶

25 And for *the rest of* the days of Judith, no one ever again spread fear among the sons of Israel, not even for a long time⁷ after her death. This victory's festival day is received by the Hebrews into the number of their holy days, and has been celebrated by the Judeans from that time until this day.⁸ Let it be!⁹

¹ [16:21] most LXX / LXX(fl), OL(s), Syr "to his tent"

² [16:21] LXX(S) adds

³ literally "season"

⁴ [16:21~23] OL "...reputable" / Vul "...throughout the whole land of Israel. And chastity was joined to her virtue, so that she knew no man all the days of her life, after her husband Manasseh died. And on festival days she came forth with great glory."

⁵ [16:24] LXX(S) omits "to all those who were...and" by scribal error

⁶ [16:23] LXX(k), OL, Syr, Vul / others place "She set her maid free." In verse 23, after "105."

⁷ Literally "for many days"

⁸ [16:25] Vul adds

⁹ [16:25] LXX(Bb) adds "Let it be!"